

b.) Remarks

Claims 9-23, 25-26, 29, 32, 35, 37-38, 40-41 and 43-44 withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 1-8, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42 and 46 are considered.

Claims 1-2 and 6-8 are objected to as informal for utilizing improper Markush language. Additionally, claims 1-3 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,766,179 (DeKoning) and claims 4-5 rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over DeKoning. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36 and 42 are rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No 4,740,830 (Ketley) in view of DeKoning.

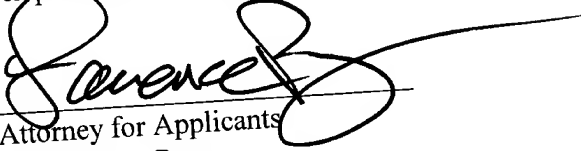
The rejections over the prior art are respectfully traversed. However, solely in order to reduce the issues and expedite Declaration of Interference with U.S. Patent No. 6,063,828 (Ma), Applicants have above cancelled claims 1-3, 7-8, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36 and 42 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection over Ketley is plainly mooted. As to the rejection over DeKoning, claims 4 and 5 have been amended to recite that Z is unsubstituted in conformity with the Examiner's kind suggestion. Additionally, the Markush language has been attended to in the amended claims. Therefore, these issues are mooted as well.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to forward this application to the Board for Declaration of Interference in due course.

Claims 4-6, 39 and 46 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Perry", is written over a horizontal line.

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